

Howard Li
01/30/2010

Fondren Research Strategies

Writing a twenty page economic analysis on the Right to Bear Arms required substantial research of economic theory and prior law cases. Fondren library provided the tools required to accomplish such a task.

I started off simply typing in key terms into the library's catalog search bar, looking for books that may discuss the Second Amendment in terms of economics. After a substantial review of many different texts, I wrote down some key economics concepts to conduct further examination. From reading the texts, I also gathered the names of former court rulings that may refute gun control laws.

Researching online sites about economic theories was not overly difficult because many different scholarly sites can be found via search engines. However, finding law cases was not so simple. To read a law case in its entirety, many sites required a subscription to gain access.

I went to the Reserves desk to ask about online law resources the library may provide. The attendant informed me of a very useful website called WestLaw that has an enormous archive of previous law cases in the United States. From this online resource, I was able to read all of the relevant law cases that I wrote down. I chose the ones I thought were going to support my thesis that gun control laws are not economically efficient for the citizens of the United States.

I am amazed at how simple this process of writing a paper sounds. In reality, this research project took me over a month to finish! Looking back, I am amazed at just how much knowledge one can discover about a particular subject and how one can never truly understand every aspect about a topic.